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FIFTEEN CENTS



Photo by J. Kozemchak Sr.

Construction work on Brandywyne Apartments is proceeding at a rapid pace since it began in early winter. Paul Schalm 3rd is developing the 140-unit complex on Route 309, Dallas Township. The complex will be serviced by Dallas Area Municipal Authority sewer system.

Special Meeting

Brandywyne Accepted For Sewer Line Extension

The secondary treatment plant of Dallas Area Municipal Authority will be operational by March, according to Howard L. Morris, representative of construction for Roy Weston engineering. Of this week, the operational portion of construction is 80 percent complete.

Mr. Morris said that major concrete work is completed; the control building is 80 percent finished, with the masonry work on the building 95 percent completed. It is not expected that offices in the control building will be ready for occupancy until April.

"After the plant becomes operational March 1, it will probably take another month to complete the paint and decor of the main building," added Mr. Morris.

Rough grading, shrubbery plantings, and roads will be done in the spring when weather conditions are more favorable.

Tri-county Constructors, Inc., is the contractor for treatment plant construction.

Charles Barby, resident representative for Weston on sewer line construction, summarized work that has been completed on lines. Only about 7,500 feet of lines, to be done by both contractors, Marona Construction and D & C Construction companies, is left to do, out of the original 52 miles of lines.

"All street work is finished and we are tying in final lines," said Mr. Barby. "We have four crews going into manholes and checking out troubles on the lines. Final inspections are being made."

All lines are expected to be laid by the end of February, weather permitting.

Applications for assistant operator and two additional men are being screened at present by Tom Bagley, chief operator. Mr. Bagley will be in charge of operating the treatment plant and will utilize a three-man crew to assist him. He said the assistant operator should be someone with a background in sewage treatment, but not necessarily a licensed operator.

Mr. Bagley's office is located on Memorial Highway, adjacent to Gould's Antique Cars.

As the tempo of work accelerates in all phases, the authority has begun to advertise for bids on equipment and materials to be used when the entire

system is operational. Bids will be accepted to Jan. 20 on a pick-up truck, a

sludge-hauling truck (tank), and chlorine.

Treatment Plant Nears Completion

Brandywyne, the apartment complex being developed currently on Route 309, Dallas Township has been accepted for sewer extension by Dallas Area Municipal Authority and officials of Dallas Township, Dallas Borough and Kingston Township.

Acceptance came at a special meeting Jan. 6 between the authority and representatives of the three Back Mountain municipalities, and was based on the con-

tingency that Brandywyne's developer, Paul Schalm 3rd, will build 5,500 feet of 10-inch gravity sewer line from the development down a section of Lake Street to College Misericordia. After installing the gravity line at his expense, Mr. Schalm will deed the line, when completed, to D.A.M.A.

The new section of line, as built by Mr. Schalm, will be constructed within 10 feet of College Misericordia's secondary

Unanimous Vote

Harveys Lake Rescinds Controversial Contracts

In what had to be one of the briefest council meetings in the history of Harveys Lake Borough, four newly elected council members voted with the three incumbents last Thursday night to rescind a controversial contract with Michael Cabot and Associates, professional community planners.

The unanimous vote followed the rendering of a legal opinion by new council solicitor Joseph V. Kasper which suggested that the contract, proposed by a four member majority Dec. 21, created no binding obligation inasmuch as it had not been formalized as an ordinance or resolution.

A lame duck council had approved the contract with Michael Cabot and Associates for \$9,800, a sum which the dissenting minority had considered exorbitant.

In other business, council approved an ordinance amending the clothing allowances granted to members of the police department. Henceforth, full time policemen will receive \$150 for clothing during their first year of service and \$100 each year thereafter; the allowance for part-time officers will be \$100 for the first year and \$75 each following year.

Certificates of deposit totalling \$6,000 were invested with the United Penn Bank in a liquid fuels account which council earmarked for the purchase of road equipment. The vote to purchase the certificates was unanimous.

New committee chairmen named included Carl Swanson, roads; William Hoblak, police; Donald Hanson, finance; Fred Merrill, purchasing; William Hoblak, community improvement; Bernice Kocher, health and sanitation, and Robert Wintersteen, recreation.

Council members Merrill, Hoblak and Kocher were appointed to a special com-

mittee to draft by-laws to accompany Roberts Rules of Order.

Conducting the council meeting with remarkable dispatch was newly elected President Thomas Cadwalader; he called for adjournment at 8:35 p.m., a scant 35 minutes after the session began. Following the meeting, one councilman remarked that caucus sessions will be held and agendas posted at the firehall prior to council meetings in the hope of facilitating the monthly meetings.

Closing of Milk Price Gap A Possibility

by J.R. Freeman

The deep dark secret of the milk price gap from the dairyman to the consumer may finally be exposed to full public view if Gov. Milton Shapp, numerous consumer advocates, and Loudon Hill Farm executives have their way. And the possibility looks very real that consumers in the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton region could come out millions of dollars to the good without any jeopardy whatever to the dairymen.

Milk generally is stringently controlled, from the farmer with a dairy herd to the dealer, and then to the retailer, by a host of regulations handed down by federal and state agencies. And in the case of the latter, a host of legal and perhaps illegal actions have recently taken place that tend to indicate the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board has been more concerned with protecting the interest of the middle man or the dealer, than looking after the interests of the farmers, or more particularly, the consumers.

In September 1970, for example, the state milk board raised the retail price of milk in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area by about six cents a gallon, to \$1.15 for jug milk and 61 cents a half-gallon. Fred Vandermeulen, a Clarks Summit executive of Loudon Hill, which operates 28 retail outlets for milk in the region, then filed a class action in behalf of consumers before the Commonwealth Court in Harrisburg. The complaint charged, among other things, that the board had no right to insist on such a high retail price for milk, and that Loudon Hill was prepared to sell milk at retail for no more than 96 cents a gallon, which would have saved consumers in this region at least \$1.5 million in the interim.

In Feb. 8, 1971 decision, the court agreed with Loudon Hill, finding that the board did not have data required by law to justify the price increase. The court, however, did not require that the board drop the milk price hike, but rather ordered the board to adopt a uniform accounting system that meets the requirements of a 1968 amendment to the Milk Marketing Law. By leaving the price hike in effect, consumers have been gouged for about \$100,000 a month in this region, and perhaps as much as \$100 million state-wide since the price hike.

Ten months after the court ordered the board to act, a Scranton hearing was held at the court's insistence, during which Peter Sandfort, president of Loudon Hill, testified that he was prepared to drop the price of milk to 93 cents a gallon in each of his 28 retail outlets in Pennsylvania "within the hour." He asked for an immediate ruling from the board, and was told by then board president Lin Huber that such a ruling would not be granted. The hearing adjourned the hearing with any date for compliance with the mandate.

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Former Dallas Resident

Chief Justice Sworn In

The highest judicial officer in the Commonwealth was sworn in last Friday at approximately 2:45 p.m. in the rotunda of Luzerne County Courthouse. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Benjamin R. Jones of Ricketts Glen and Philadelphia was administered the oath before a large crowd of dignitaries, friends and fellow members of the bench.

Justice Jones, 65, became the 37th chief justice of the State Supreme Court, the oldest such court in the nation. His son, Atty. Benjamin R. Jones 3rd., Dallas, administered the oath. Another son, Atty. Morgan R. Jones, read the commission, and a stepson, Edward Griffith 2nd, a law student at Dickinson College, robed the justice. Also taking part in the ceremony were two grandsons, Evan Jones and Ben R. Jones 4th, who held the Bible for the oath taking. The Bible was a Christmas gift in 1921 to Justice Jones from his parents.

The ceremony was conducted by Supreme Court Senior Justice Michael J. Eagan of Lackawanna County. Arthur Silverblatt, president of Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association and a close personal friend of Justice Jones, made remarks. The ceremony broke a precedent as it was the first time in the 250-year

state court history that a chief justice was sworn-in at the courthouse in his home county. It is the first time in 109 years that a Luzerne County justice has held the position.

One governor and three former governors witnessed the event. Gov. Milton Shapp was present, as were William W. Scranton, George M. Leader and John S. Fine. (continued on PAGE SIXTEEN)



Photo by Paramount Studio

The marble rotunda of Luzerne County Courthouse was the setting last Friday for the swearing-in ceremony of Benjamin R. Jones to the post of chief justice of Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Atty.

Benjamin R. Jones 3rd (immediately behind the speaker's dais) administered the oath of office to his father, Chief Justice Jones is standing with his hand on a Bible held by his two grandsons.